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ABSTRACT

This pamphlet gives a brief description of the Council for Environmental Education history, purpose, activities, and structure. The five sections of this publication are: (1) Aims and Objectives of the Council; (2) Origins of the Council; (3) The Council's Structure and Membership; (4) Brief History of the Council; and (5) Present Activities of the Council for Environmental Education. The council's role is to serve as a liaison between member organizations to reduce duplication of effort and to function as an information service for environmental education. The council feels that environmental education should take an interdisciplinary approach so that teachers and pupils, regardless of ability, are able to benefit from the use of the environment as a medium for education, thus encouraging the development of respect and concern for the quality of the environment. (MR)

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COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Council Information Leaflet

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Council for
Environmental Educ.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

SE 020 144

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Consultant: Christopher Gayford, PhD, MEd, MSc, MIBiol.

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I N F O R M A T I O N L E A F L E T

1. Aims and Objectives of the Council
2. The Origins of the Council
3. The Council's Structure and Membership
4. Brief History of the Council
5. Present Activities

1. Aims and Objectives of the Council

The Council was formed in 1968 to provide a much-needed forum for the interchange of ideas and advice on the promotion of environmental education. Its formation has enabled representatives from a large number of organisations concerned with education or environmental management to meet together at regular intervals. Details of the Council's membership are given in Section 3.

The Council's role is essentially that of a liaison body. It encourages communication between member organisations and others so that duplication of effort can be avoided and the various bodies working in this important and rapidly expanding field can benefit from the experience and advice of others. Individuals interested or involved in environmental education can often be helped by the Council's Secretariat in its developing role as an Information Service for matters relating to environmental education. The Council also initaites projects from time to time to further these aims.

The Council is registered at the Department of Education and Science as an educational charity and exists on grants from the Department of the Environment, local education authorities and charitable bodies.

2. The origins of the Council.

In the years leading up to the European Conservation Year (1970) three conferences on the theme of "The Countryside in 1970" were held in this country. These conferences enabled representatives of a wide range of organisations concerned with countryside use and management to gather together to discuss the state of the British countryside as it was likely to be in 1970. At the second conference, recognition was given to the vital role which education had to play in promoting environmental awareness and consideration.

The working party set up by the Duke of Edinburgh's Standing Committee for the "Countryside in 1970" recommended that a Council to coordinate information on environmental education should be set up, and in 1968 the Council held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Sir Jack Longland. The Council's remit covers England and Wales, a separate Committee for Scotland having been set up at the same time.

Although its formation followed the 'Countryside in 1970' conferences, the Council's field of interest is not limited to the rural environment, as it recognises that the urban and rural elements of the environment are inextricably linked and interdependent. Neither does the Council envisage environmental education as being the prerogative of any one of the existing disciplines. It feels that an interdisciplinary approach should be attempted where possible, so that the teaching profession as a whole and all pupils, regardless of academic ability, are able to benefit from the use of the environment as a medium for education and are thereby encouraged to develop respect and concern for the quality of the environment.

3. The Council's Structure and Membership

Over 50 national organisations, including local authority, teachers' and other professional organisations and statutory authorities and voluntary bodies concerned with environmental management, are members of the Council, and observers from the Department of Education and Science, the Department of the Environment, the Welsh Education Office and the Schools Council also attend meetings. A detailed chart of the Council's membership is given at the end of this leaflet.

The full Council meets once a year, and members are kept informed of progress by a Newsletter ('REED' - see publications list) which is issued three times

a year. In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, which has in recent years incorporated an Open Meeting/discussion session with invited speakers, the Council is able to organise conferences which allow fuller discussion of particular problems.

Much of the work of the Council is initiated by its two sub-committees. These are composed of representatives from selected member organisations and are concerned with Education and Resources respectively. Meetings of these committees often result in fruitful co-operation between member organisations which helps to avoid misunderstandings between the various interest groups. Each sub-Committee is empowered to set up Working Parties, composed of members of the Committee and other co-opted individuals, to study particular problems and make recommendations on their solutions. Subjects investigated by Working Parties of this kind include the use of maps in environmental education, including problems arising from the payment of royalties and copyright difficulties; ways in which teachers and youth leaders can be made more aware of their responsibilities when leading parties of field-workers; the career prospects of those who wish to find a job in conservation/environmental management; and the provision of examinations in environmental education at school level, including an assessment of the environmental content of traditional subject syllabuses.

The Council's Executive Committee, composed of its officers and the Chairmen and elected representatives of the Committees, meets at intervals to oversee the general running of the Council and the Secretariat.

Membership of the Council is open to any national organisation with an interest in environmental education, provided the application for membership is approved by the Executive Committee. There are no membership fees, but each member organisation is expected to finance the activities of its elected representative(s). There is no individual membership of the Council, although any interested individual may subscribe to the Council's publications.

4. Brief History of the Council

Initially the Council operated on a purely voluntary basis, with miror expenses being met by the organisations concerned. Mr Philip Oswald, then Head of the Nature Conservancy's Education Advisory Section, was the Acting Secretary to the Council for its first two years and was responsible for carrying out a substantial mailing to schools and colleges during European Conservation Year. During ECY the Council was successful in obtaining a three year grant from the Ernest Cook Trust for the establishment of a Secretariat, and in September 1970, Mr C L Mellowes, formerly Director of Education for Northumberland, was appointed as part-time Secretary with Mr David Withrington as his Administrative Assistant. The Secretariat was housed in a small office in the London Headquarters of the National Council of Social Service.

The Council was registered with the Department of Education and Science as an educational charity, and the Secretariat entered into negotiations with the Carnegie UK Trust which resulted in a generous grant over three years being given to the Council. This provided funds for the appointment of a second administrative assistant, and two graduates, Carol Johnson, BSc, and Jacqui Smith, BSc, were appointed in December 1971, following the resignation of Mr Withrington, to carry out the day-to-day work of the Secretariat, and too work on the three projects undertaken with the help of

this grant. These eventually resulted in the publication of DELTA, the revised version of the Directory of Centres, and Advice on the Production of a Resource Guide for Outdoor Studies, and in the setting up of the Council's information service.

In April 1973, following the death of Mr Mellowes, former HMI John Pullen was appointed as Secretary. Mr Pullen was largely responsible for initiating a successful appeal which secured support for the Council's work from a number of education authorities throughout England and Wales. It is hoped that this support will continue in the future so that the Council can expand its activities.

In August 1973, the Council's Secretariat moved its offices to the School of Education at Reading University, a move brought about by a desire to strengthen links with educationists and, through the School of Education's Advanced Diploma Course in Environmental Studies in Education, with experienced teachers interested in environmental education. Although formal links with the University exist - Professor Wilson of the School of Education is a member of the Council's Executive Committee, and Tessa Davey, Course Tutor of the Advanced Diploma Course (since replaced by Dr. C. Gayford), was appointed as Special Consultant to the Council - the Council still retains financial independence and its charitable status.

Soon after the move to Reading, Mr Pullen retired from his official position with the Council, although he maintained an interest in the Council's work until his death in 1977. Carol Johnson (now Mrs Carol Hemsworth) was promoted to the post of full-time Secretary, Jacqui Smith became Administrative Assistant, and a part-time secretarial assistant was employed to help with the work load.

In September 1975, Sir Jack Longland retired from his position as Chairman of the Council, and Patrick

Shallard (ex-Chief Education Officer for Bedfordshire) was elected as the new Chairman. At the same time, Lord Sandford agreed to become President of the Council.

The Department of the Environment gave recognition to the importance of the Council's work in 1976, in the form of a grant to match the contributions from local authorities. Shortly after this, Mrs Hemsworth left the Council, and Miss Smith took her place as Secretary.

5. Present Activities

The third project funded by the Carnegie UK Trust involved the provision of information and materials for teachers and youth leaders who wish to embark upon environmental studies projects. The Council, in common with many other organisations in this field, receives a great deal of correspondence from individuals and institutions, both from the UK and abroad, interested in some aspect of environmental education. In its central position as the coordinating body for so many organisations involved in environmental education, the Council and its Secretariat are well placed to act as a clearing house for enquiries relating to environmental education, channelling enquirers to appropriate contacts and resources and providing a starting point for visitors to this country who wish to gain an overall picture of environmental education in the UK.

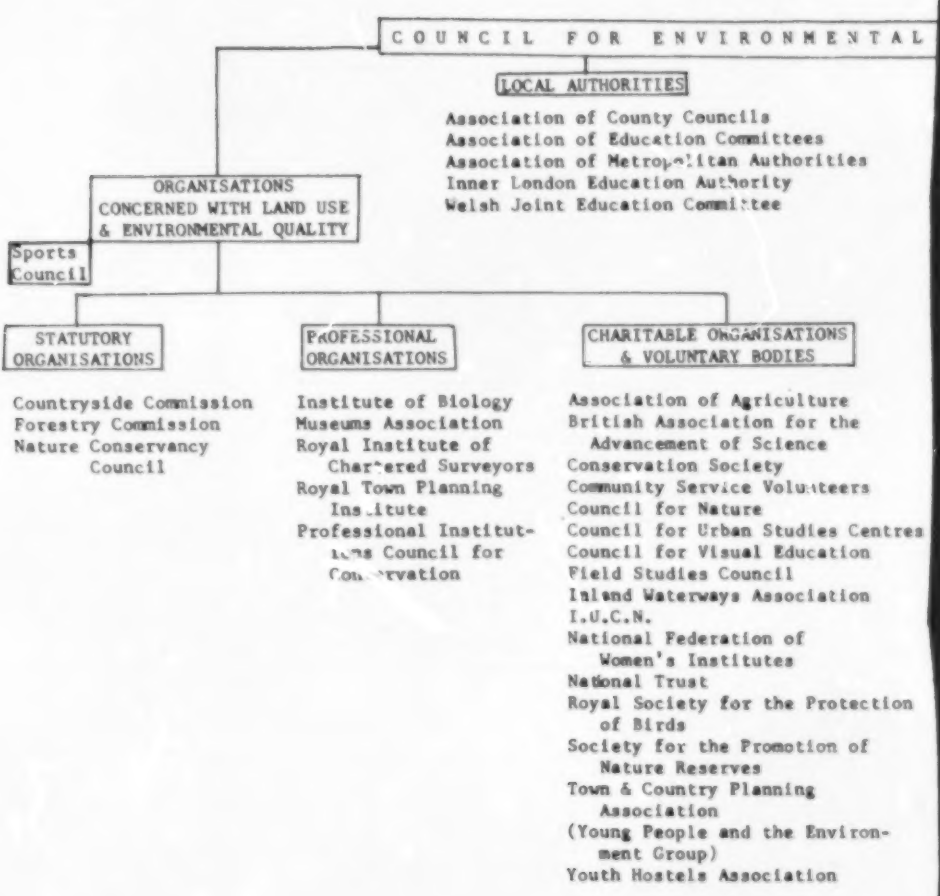
Using money provided by the Carnegie UK Trust and the grants from Local Education Authorities and the Department of the Environment, the Secretariat has produced several information leaflets (see publications list) and in January 1974 started a monthly Newsheet giving brief details of publications, courses, events and services relating to environmental education. The Newsheet is available on subscription, and is also circulated to all schools, colleges and centres covered

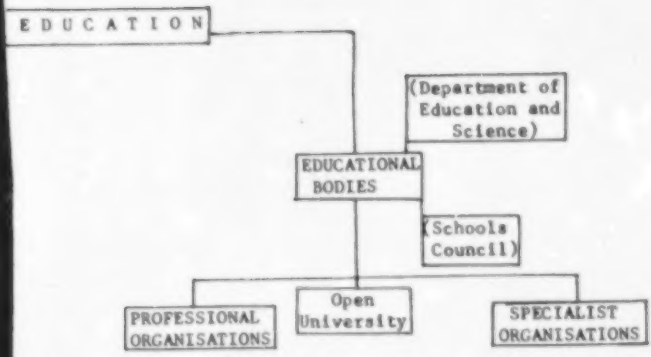
by those Local Education Authorities which are grant-aiding the Council. The Council's quarterly Newsletter 'REED' is now also availabe on subscription to any interested individual as well as being sent free to the Chief Education Officers of contributing LEAs and to the 80+ members of the Council and its Committees.

The Council also arranges conferences on topics of importance in Environmental Education, or to improve liaison, as with a recent series of conferences for Information Officers of environmental organisations. It is also hoped to arrange regional conferences in conjunction with other organisations.

The Working Parties set up by the Council's Committees are also active in producing information and publications. A Working Party on Careers for Environmentalists has recently produced a valuable booklet outlinging career possibilities for those interested in working in this field.

A chart showing membership of the Council for Environmental Education is given overleaf.


COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
LOCAL AUTHORITIES
Association of County Councils
Association of Education Committees
Association of Metropolitan Authorities
Inner London Education Authority
Welsh Joint Education Committee
ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Sports Council
STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS
Countryside Commission
Forestry Commission
Nature Conservancy Council
PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS
Institute of Biology
Museums Association
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
Royal Town Planning Institute
Professional Institutions Council for Conservation
CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS & VOLUNTARY BODIES
Association of Agriculture
British Association for the Advancement of Science
Conservation Society
Community Service Volunteers
Council for Nature
Council for Urban Studies Centres
Council for Visual Education
Field Studies Council
Inland Waterways Association
I.U.C.N.
National Federation of Women's Institutes
National Trust
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves
Town & Country Planning Association
(Young People and the Environment Group)
Youth Hostels Association



Association of Polytechnic Teachers
Assn. of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education
Assn. of Teachers in Technical Institutions
Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals
Independent Schools Association
Joint Four
National Association of Head Teachers
National Association of Schoolmasters
National Institute of Adult Education
National Union of Students
National Union of Teachers

Association for Science Education
Assn. of Agricultural Education Staffs
Geographical Association
National Association for Environmental Education
Society for Environmental Education

NOTE
Bracketed organisations have observer status only